Secrets. H-37—100,000—25-5-48.

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G.O. No: 2069 PH

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Madras Legislative Assembly Question No.1091 - Qualification of District Health Officers their work etc. - Question answered - Papers recorded.

District Health Officers.

*851 Q.- SRI M.G.NATESA CHETTIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state -

(a) the qualifications of District Health Officers (Both first and second class):

(b) whether it is a fact that their services in the Health Department are utilized for the curative side as well as preventive side as they are qualified for both:

(c) whether it is a fact that this has been considered by the Government for amalgamating both curative and preventive sides of the special diseases like cholera, typhoid, plague, malaria, etc., at least; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Bhore Committee has recommended such amalgamation, and if so, at what stage the consideration of it is ?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:- " (a) All District Health Officers belong to the cadre of First class Health Officers. Recruitment to this cadre is both by direct recruitment and recruitment by transfer of Second-class Health Officers. The qualifications laid down for these two kinds of recruitment are given in the statement placed on the table.

(b) Health Officers are qulified both in curative and preventive medicine. Although they are debarred from medical (curative) practice their services are ~~sometei~~ sometimes used for curative work also in the case of infectious diseases.

"(c) No.

"(d) The Bhore Committee has recommended the amalgamation of the entire curative and preventiv medical services but the Government have not accepted their recommendation. Medical and Publi Health staff are employed together in the primary health centres sanctioned this year as part of the Post-War Scheme."

SRI M.G.NATESA CHETTIYAR:- " May I know whether the shortage of applicants for the post of Health Officers, is not due to want of amalgamation of both the curative and preventive sides ?"

THE HON.SRI. A. B. SHETTY: - " I do not think so.

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: - " Is it not a fact, Sir, that these Health Officers are not equipped with the requisite knowledge of environmental hygiene which is so necessary ?"

THE HON. SRI . A. B. SHETTY: - "Sir, for water-supply and draingge work, we want people trained in Public Health Engineering."

SRIMATHI A.V.KUTTIMALU AMMA: - " In the Statement pla- c ed on the table of the House , it stated that the qualification prescribed, among others, for recruitment of Second-class Health Officer, is 'a diploma or certificate granted by a British Indian Government.' May I know whether it is necessary that it should be granted by a 'British Indian Government '?

THE HON.SRI A.B.SHETTY: - " It is not necessary now, Sir."

Cont.

SRI M.G.NATESA CHETTIYAR: - " May I know when the qualifications are the same both for the curative and preventive medical services, why the Health Officers should not be allowed to practice both the curative and the preventive sides especially in view of the fact that there is shortage of these men as is pleaded in the budget ?"

THE HON.SRI A.B.SHETTY; - " Service in the Health department is not as attractive as service in the Medical Department because Health Officers are not given the previlege of consultation or private practice."

M.S.ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:- " In view of paucity of medical men, will the hon. Minister consider the question of continuing men who retire by mere efflux of time ?"

THE HON.SRI. A.B.SHETTY: - "There is no paucity of candidates. There are many number of candidates waiting for recruitment."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: - " May I know what steps the Government are taking to rectify the existing defect which has been acknowledged by the Hon.Minister - and whether he intends to appoint Public Health Engineers to tackle the health problem ?"

THE HONSRI A.B.SHETTY: - " About six Municipal Engineers have been sent to Calcutta for training as I have already stated at the time when I presented the demand. A number of subordinate members of the Engineering staff have also been sent there for training in water-supply and drainage work."

H.S.HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: - " Do not the Government consider that the amalgamation of both curative and preventive sides will help prevention of disease ?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: - " At the first Health Ministers' Conference, both the Government of Madras and the Government of Bombay took up the stand that it is not necessary to amalgamate both these services. It is enough if there is co-ordination of work between them."

N.MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:- " How is it that amongst the qualifications prescribed, health is not required for Health Officers ?"(Laughter.)

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR: - " May I know why they do not agree with the recommendations of the Bhore Committee and amalgamate these two services ? They have not given any explanation on this matter ?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : - " From experience we have come to the conclusion that it is not necessary. There was a time when the District Medical Officer was D.M.S.O. for Medical as well as as Health Services. At present, here at the top, the Surgeon-General is the Chief Adviser to the Government in all matters affecting Public health and then we have got a Joint Secretary who is in charge of both medical and health services."

Cont.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR: " May I know whether the Government have appointed any L.I.M. as Health Officer"?

THE HON. SRI A.B.SHETTY: - " No, Sir."

SRI M.G.NATESA CHETTIYAR: - " May I knwo whether the Government of Bengal have implemented the Bhore Committee recommendations in amalgamating both medical and health services and why not this Government do the same thing as an expedient process to deal with the present intolerable situation created in this Province ?"

THE HON. SRI . AB. SHETTY: - " We shall wait and see what the result of the amalgamation in Bengal is."

SRI B. S. MURTHI: - " Are the Government aware, Sir, that in Ceylon, both the departments are now being worked under one head and that the system has been appreciated by the U.N.O. also ?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:- " If the hon. Member has got sufficient information on this matter, he may kindly place it at our disposal."

SRI S. NAGAPPA: - " Arising out of the answer given by the Hon.Minister, may I know the reasons why L.I.M. doctors are not appointed as Health Officers ?"

MR. SPEAKER : - " The Hon. Minister has already answered tha L.I.M. is not the prescribed qualification for the post of an Health Officer."

SRI M.G.NATESA CHETTIYAR: - " May I know whether the proposed formation of medical and health units, as proposed in the Budget, is a step in the direction of amalgamating both the preventive and curative sides ?"

THE HON. SRI . A. B. SHETTY: - " The intention is not to amalgamate but to co-ordinate both medical and public health work at the primary health centres."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: - "Will the Government ~~aree~~ agree, in the interests of efficiency and mutual help, to subordinate the functions of District Health Officers to those of ~~Dis-trict~~ District Medical Officers in future ?"

THE HON. SRI. A. B. SHETTY: - " I do not think it is necessary."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR: - " In view of the fact that the Bhore Committee has recommended the amalgamation of both these services and also in view of the fact that public opinion and the profession are very keen on this amalgamation will the Government re-examine this matter ?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: - " There is no evidence that the public opinion is so keen on this matter."

DRI. ~~MR~~ U. P. MALLAYYA: - "May I know whether it is a fact that students coming out of the Medical College, do not choose to qualify themselves to the Health Officer's Course ?"

THE HON. SRI A.B.SHETTY: - " Yet, Sir. I have already said that."

Cont.

P.P.HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:- " May I know whether in the case of districts with large population, more than one health Officer would be appointed ?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: - " In such districts, there is one District Health Officer and also an Assistant Health Officer."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: - " May I know what powers these Health Officers exercise over women medical officers ?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: - " That is a separate question."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: - " May I know whether the Government do not propose even to allow both the preventi and curative sides being practised by the Health Officers in the matter of diseases like cholera, typhoid, plague, malaria, etc.?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: - " I have already said that their services are sometimes used for curative work also in the case of infectious diseases."

SRI B. S. MURTHI: - " In view of the fact that both the medical profession and the public opinion are keen about this, may I know whether the Government will take one single district and experiment on it and see whether this system will work?"

THE HON SRI A. B. SHETTY: - " The presumption of the hon. Member is not correct."

M.S.ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR: - " The Hon. Ministe has not given me a satisfactory answer. What he said yesterday was that there is paucity of medical men. I ask the Hon. Minister whether he would continue such of those medical officers who are already in the department and not make them retire by mere effilux of time ? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. SHETTY: - " What I said was that there is some difficulty in finding men with ~~suitable~~ suitable qualifications and experience for teaching work. "

SRI M.G. NATESA CHETTIYAR: - " May I know whether it is a fact that both the curative and preventive sides of the diseases mentioned in clause (c) are not allowed to be treated by the Health Officers in the Military Department?"

THE HON. SRI . A. B. SHETTY: - " I have no information about the Military department."

Education and Public Health Department

Please see the proceedings of the Assembly on page 4-6 above. No further action is called for on these papers The papers may be recorded.

Sd. Secretary to Government,
6-6-49.

G.O.Ms.No.2067 PH, dated 7-6-49.

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